

LC03624

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2004

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT
RONALD WILSON REAGAN

Introduced By: Representatives Murphy, Fox, Watson, Moffitt, and Mumford

Date Introduced: June 08, 2004

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, President Reagan's humble origins began in 1911 in Tampico, Illinois, the
2 son of Nelle and John Reagan. Despite growing up poor, President Reagan always had a sense of
3 optimism, a belief in America's inherent greatness, and never wavered from his conviction that
4 anyone could succeed in America if they worked hard enough; and

5 WHEREAS, President Reagan worked his way through Eureka College and while there
6 he studied economics and sociology, played football and acted in school plays. Upon graduation,
7 he became a radio sports announcer and then moved to Hollywood in 1937 to embark on a movie
8 career; and

9 WHEREAS, President Reagan over the following 27 years worked as an actor in movies,
10 and a spokesman for General Electric. In the late 40's Reagan became President of the Screen
11 Actors Guild and while he was an ardent anti-communist who opposed communist infiltration
12 within the Screen Actors Guild, he nobly opposed the unconstitutional witch-hunts embarked on
13 by the United States House Un-American Activities Committee against members of his union;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, By the early 60's Reagan increasingly was feeling pulled to enter the
16 political arena and fight for his core conservative beliefs and principles. In 1964, he campaigned
17 passionately for Barry Goldwater and, in 1966, Reagan ran as an underdog for Governor of
18 California against the powerful two-term incumbent, Pat Brown. In one of the greatest political
19 upsets in American political history, Reagan not only won but he defeated Pat Brown easily.

1 Reagan's campaign of fiscal conservatism and law and order policies, combined with his genial
2 folksy friendliness and upbeat optimism proved to be a potent political combination; and

3 WHEREAS, Reagan served the state of California as Governor for two-terms and was
4 known for his fiscal conservatism, aggressive law and order policies to fight the rising crime rate,
5 and for his staunch anti-communism beliefs; and

6 WHEREAS, In the late 70's Reagan became the spokesman for the conservative
7 movement in America. His radio broadcasts during this period were heard weekly by millions of
8 Americans. In 1980, in the midst of an economic recession and great trouble abroad, Reagan ran
9 for President calling for tax cuts to revive the economy and a strengthening of our nation's
10 military to deter the Soviet empire and our other enemies around the world. Once again,
11 President Reagan's congenial mannerisms, folksy way of articulating himself and unbridled
12 optimism proved to be an unbeatable combination on the campaign trail. President Reagan won
13 an overwhelming landslide victory in 1980 and became our nation's 40th President; and

14 WHEREAS, President Reagan stood for tax cuts, fiscal restraint, and tough anti-crime
15 policies on the domestic front and supported increased military spending to combat Soviet
16 aggression and check the growth of communism around the world. His "Peace Through
17 Strength" policies are credited by many as contributing mightily to America and its allies
18 emerging victorious in the Cold War. When Reagan called the Soviet Union an "Evil Empire" or
19 demanded that Gorbachev tear down the Berlin Wall, he spoke for the millions of people who
20 lived in darkness behind the Iron Curtain. From Lech Walesa and the Solidarity movement in
21 Poland to the prisoners suffering in gulags in Siberia, Reagan reminded the world that freedom
22 and democracy were not merely concepts, but rather were as vital to the soul of man as is food
23 and water. Perhaps there is no greater testament to Reagan's legacy that the freedom that exists in
24 all of Europe today as a result of the Berlin Wall coming down in 1989; and

25 WHEREAS, Perhaps more than his policies, America will remember President Reagan
26 for his passionate optimism, unwavering belief in America's greatness and the happy-go-lucky
27 demeanor with which Reagan always seemed to carry himself. We who can remember the 80's
28 will never forget the great humor and grace he exhibited when he was shot in 1981. From asking
29 the doctor if he was a Republican to proclaiming that the bad guy got the draw on him, Reagan
30 incredibly found the inner strength to put the nation at ease and even bring a smile t us during that
31 trying time. Most importantly, Reagan never lost his belief that America truly was "The Shining
32 City on the Hill" and called on our nation to be an example to the rest of the world; and

33 WHEREAS, Our nation was greatly saddened when we learned in 1993 that President
34 Reagan was stricken with Alzheimer's Disease. Yet even in the twilight of his life, President

1 Reagan found the strength to write one final letter to the nation thanking them for giving him the
2 great honor of serving them as President and saying goodbye as he embarked on the final journey
3 of his life. Thanks to Reagan's courage in disclosing his disease, millions have been raised to
4 fight Alzheimer's Disease; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
6 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its deepest condolences to his beloved Mrs. Nancy
7 Reagan and his family on the passing President Ronald Wilson Reagan; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential Library and
10 Museum.

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